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CHAPIN & HUANG, L.L.C.

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 002/005

p . 2

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ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. ; CIS00-2413

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants: Lewis D. Dodrill, Ryan A. Danner, and Steven J. Martin

Serial No.: 09/679,109

For: APPARATUS AND METHODS FOR CONVERTING TEXTUAL
INFORMATION TO AUDIO-BASED OUTPUT

Filing Date: October 4, 2000

Examiner: Han, QI

Art Unit: 2654

Conf. No.: 1822

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Commissioner for Patents
PO Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

Best Available Copy**AFFADAVIT UNDER 37 CFR 1.131**

1. I, Lewis D. Dodrill, am a co-inventor of "Apparatus and Method for Converting Textual Information to Audio-based Output" now before the U. S. Patent Office as Application Number 09/679,109.

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Nov 12 2004 12:06

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003/005

p . 3

2. It is my belief that inventorship in the above-identified patent application is correct.

3. Prior to March 24, 2000, I conceived of the invention of "Apparatus and Method for Converting Textual Information to Audio-based Output" now before the U. S. Patent Office as Application Number 09/679,109 jointly with the co-inventors named in the above-identified patent application.

4. Prior to March 24, 2000, I jointly, with the co-inventors named in the above-identified patent application, reduced to practice the invention described and claimed in Application Number 09/679,109, now pending in the U.S. Patent Office, as evidence i by the attached invention disclosure.

5. All of the statements made herein are of my own knowledge and are true, these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment or both, under § 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application and any patent issuing thereon, or any patent to which this verified statement is applied.

11/12/04
Date of Signature

By Lewis D. Dodrill
Lewis D. Dodrill

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants: Lewis D. Dodrill, Ryan A. Danner, and Steven J. Martin
Serial No.: 09/679,109
For: APPARATUS AND METHODS FOR CONVERTING TEXTUAL
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Date: 11 / 9 / 2004

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Signature: _____

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Commissioner for Patents
PO Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

AFFADAVIT UNDER 37 CFR 1.131

1. I, Ryan A. Danner, am a co-inventor of "Apparatus and Method for Converting
Textual Information to Audio-based Output" now before the U. S. Patent Office as
Application Number 09/679,109.

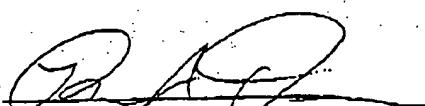
2. It is my belief that inventorship in the above-identified patent application is correct.

3. Prior to March 24, 2000, I conceived of the invention of "Apparatus and Method for Converting Textual Information to Audio-based Output" now before the U. S. Patent Office as Application Number 09/679,109 jointly with the co-inventors named in the above-identified patent application.

4. Prior to March 24, 2000, I jointly, with the co-inventors named in the above-identified patent application, reduced to practice the invention described and claimed in Application Number 09/679,109, now pending in the U.S. Patent Office, as evidenced by the attached invention disclosure.

5. All of the statements made herein are of my own knowledge and are true, these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment or both, under § 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application and any patent issuing thereon, or any patent to which this verified statement is applied.

1/9/2004
Date of Signature

By: 
Ryan A. Danner
DANNER

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants: Lewis D. Dodrill, Ryan A. Danner, and Steven J. Martin
Serial No.: 09/679,109
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Date: July 14, 2005

By: Mary A. Maietta
(Typed or printed name of person mailing Document, whose signature appears below)

Signature: Mary A. Maietta

MAIL STOP AF
Commissioner for Patents
PO Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

AFFADAVIT UNDER 37 CFR 1.131

1. Steven J. Martin is a co-inventor of "Apparatus and Method for Converting Textual Information to Audio-based Output" now before the U. S. Patent Office as Application Number 09/679,109. This is evidenced by his name being listed as an inventor on the invention disclosure (copy attached) and from his being included as an inventor on the patent application as filed.

2. It is my belief that, based on the above, inventorship in the above-identified patent application is correct.

3. Prior to March 24, 2000, Steven J. Martin conceived of the invention of "Apparatus and Method for Converting Textual Information to Audio-based Output" now before the U. S. Patent Office as Application Number 09/679,109 jointly with the co-inventors named in the above-identified patent application. This is evidenced by the invention disclosure (enclosed herewith) having a date which precedes March 24, 2000.

4. Prior to March 24, 2000, Steven J. Martin jointly, with the co-inventors named in the above-identified patent application, reduced to practice the invention described and claimed in Application Number 09/679,109, now pending in the U.S. Patent Office. This is shown by the patent application being filed on October 4, 2000.

5. Steven J. Martin refuses to sign an affidavit attesting to the above stated facts as related to me by the attorney (David W. Rouille) prosecuting the present application and as stated in the Declaration of David W. Rouille, a copy of which is enclosed herewith. Therefore I, Robert Barr, Esq., Vice-President Intellectual Property at Cisco Systems, Inc. am signing on behalf of the Assignee Cisco Systems, Inc.

6. All of the statements made herein attributed to me are of my own knowledge and are believed to be true, these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment or both, under § 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application and any patent issuing thereon, or any patent to which this verified statement is applied.

6/22/2005
Date of Signature

By: 
Robert Barr, Esq.
Vice President Intellectual Property



ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. CIS00-2413

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants: Lewis D. Dodrill, Ryan A. Danner, and Steven J. Martin

Serial No.: 09/679,109

For: APPARATUS AND METHODS FOR CONVERTING TEXTUAL
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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: **MAIL STOP AMENDMENT**, Commissioner for Patents, PO Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450 on:

Date: December 14, 2004

By: Mary A. Maietta

(Typed or printed name of person mailing
Document, whose signature appears below)

Signature: Mary A. Maietta

MAIL STOP AMENDMENT
Commissioner for Patents
PO Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

Declaration Of David W. Rouille

Dear Sir:

1. My name is David W. Rouille and I am an attorney registered to practice before the United States Patent and Trademark Office, Registration No. 40, 150.

2. On or about November 4, 2004 I contacted Steven J. Martin via email at email address sjm@cmguc.com regarding my plan to swear behind the references cited by the Examiner. A copy of the email is attached hereto.
3. On or about November 12, 2004 I telephoned Steven J. Martin at (804) 762-5601. I discussed the office action with Mr. Martin and explained the affidavit (included with the email of November 4, 2004). Mr. Martin agreed to sign the affidavit and fax it back to me. Mr. Martin also explained to me how I may be able to get in touch with Mr Dodrill.
4. On or about November 15, I sent a reminder email to Mr. Martin regarding the affidavit and that I had received signed affidavits from the othe rinvetors. A copy of this email is attached hereto.
5. Between November 18, 2004 and December 7, 2004 I telephoned Mr. Martin several times. In each instance I left a voice mail message for Mr. Martin inquiring about the affidavit.
6. On December 7, 2004 I sent Mr. Martin another email regarding the affidavit. I received no answer from Mr.Martin regarding the email or phone messages. From this I assume that Mr. Martin is either unavailable or refuses to sign the affidavit.

I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment or both under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.

Respectfully submitted,



David W. Rouille
David W. Rouille, Esq.
Attorney for Applicant(s)
Registration No.: 40,150
CHAPIN & HUANG, L.L.C.
Westborough Office Park
1700 West Park Drive
Westborough, Massachusetts 01581
Telephone: (508) 366-9600
Facsimile: (508) 616-9805

Attorney Docket No.: CIS00-2413

Date: December 14, 2004

David Rouille

From: David Rouille
Sent: Thursday, November 04, 2004 2:52 PM
To: 'sjm@cmguc.com'
Subject: affidavit regarding patent application titled "Apparatus and Methods for Converting Textual Information to Audio-based Output"

Steven,

I am the patent attorney prosecuting this application through the Patent Office for Cisco. We received a rejection, citing three patents. Instead of arguing around the patents we can do something called "swearing behind" these patents. In this case, the date of invention precedes the priority date of the three patents cited against your application. I have prepared an affidavit (for each inventor) which basically states that you conceived of this prior to the date of the other patents. I will submit the CPOL record (with dates and product names redacted) as proof. Please review the attached affidavit and, if correct, sign and date. You can fax the signed affidavit back to me. Please feel free to contact me directly if you have any questions. Once I receive signed affidavits from all the inventors, I will file the response.

Regards,
Dave



CIS00-2413 1.131
Affidavit - M...

David W. Rouille
Chapin & Huang, LLC
Westborough Office Park
1700 West Park Drive
Westborough, MA 01581
(508) 366-9600 (phone)
(508) 616-9805 (fax)

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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants: Lewis D. Dodrill, Ryan A. Danner, and Steven J. Martin
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Date: _____ By: _____
(Typed or printed name of person mailing Document, whose signature appears below)

Signature: _____

MAIL STOP AMENDMENT
Commissioner for Patents
PO Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

AFFADAVIT UNDER 37 CFR 1.131

1. I, Steven J. Martin am a co-inventor of "Apparatus and Method for Converting Textual Information to Audio-based Output" now before the U. S. Patent Office as Application Number 09/679,109.

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Date of Signature

By: _____
Steven J. Martin

David Rouille

From: David Rouille
Sent: Monday, November 15, 2004 10:37 AM
To: 'sjm@cmguc.com'
Subject: affidavit

Steve,
I have received signed affidavits back from Ryan Danner and Dean Dodrill. I need yours to complete the filing. I need to file this by tomorrow to avoid late fees. I tried to call you, but your phone rings twice then disconnects (804762-5601). Please reply or call me to let me know if you will sign the affidavit or if you have any questions about it.

thanks,
Dave

David W. Rouille
Chapin & Huang, LLC
Westborough Office Park
1700 West Park Drive
Westborough, MA 01581
(508) 366-9600 (phone)
(508) 616-9805 (fax)



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David Rouille

From: David Rouille
Sent: Tuesday, December 07, 2004 9:49 AM
To: 'sjm@cmguc.com'
Subject: FW: affidavit regarding patent application titled "Apparatus and Methods for Converting Textual Information to Audio-based Output"

Steve,
I need to file this by December 16 to avoid another late fee. I am assuming you are off site or otherwise unavailable. Please confirm that you will sign the affidavit and fax it back to me so I can file the response. I have signed affidavits from the other inventors. If I don't hear from you by December 13, I will assume you refuse to sign the affidavit and will continue with a procedure called "non-cooperative inventor" wherein I file a petition stating that I sent the affidavit to you and you refused to sign, that you have a duty to sing as part of your prior employment agreement with Cisco and asking the PTO to accept the unsigned affidavit as if it were signed. They will then send you a copy of the petition for your records so you are aware what is going on. This procedure is a pain and I prefer not to go this route if I can avoid it. I have enclosed my original message with the affidavit attached.

Thanks,
Dave



-----Original Message-----

From: David Rouille
Sent: Thursday, November 04, 2004 2:52 PM
To: 'sjm@cmguc.com'
Subject: affidavit regarding patent application titled "Apparatus and Methods for Converting Textual Information to Audio-based Output"

Steven,
I am the patent attorney prosecuting this application through the Patent Office for Cisco. We received a rejection, citing three patents. Instead of arguing around the patents we can do something called "swearing behind" these patents. In this case, the date of invention precedes the priority date of the three patents cited against your application. I have prepared an affidavit (for each inventor) which basically states that you conceived of this prior to the date of the other patents. I will submit the CPOL record (with dates and product names redacted) as proof. Please review the attached affidavit and, if correct, sign and date. You can fax the signed affidavit back to me. Please feel free to contact me directly if you have any questions. Once I receive signed affidavits from all the inventors, I will file the response.

Regards,
Dave

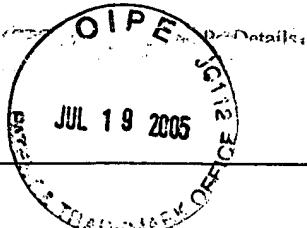


CIS00-2413 1.131
Affidavit - M...

David W. Rouille
Chapin & Huang, LLC
Westborough Office Park
1700 West Park Drive
Westborough, MA 01581
(508) 366-9600 (phone)
(508) 616-9805 (fax)

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Patent Idea Details

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GENERAL INFORMATION

Title: URL-Based TTS

ID: 5

Patent No.: ---, ---

URL: [Application No. ---]

Inventors: Lewis Dodrill (ddodrill), Ryan Danner (rdanner), and Steven Martin (sjm)
More details on these inventors listed below.

Date

Entered:

Date

Modified:

Date Filed: ---

Date Issued: ---

Background: There currently exist a variety of software and hardware solutions that convert text information into audio in the form of human speech. This "text-to-speech" conversion serves a variety of useful purposes such as providing textual information to the visually impaired or to non-visual devices such as telephones. There are, however, inherent shortcomings in the existing technology that can make it difficult to integrate into applications or exhibit undesirably low levels of performance.

The shortcomings of existing text-to-speech implementations are consistently exposed. For example, the most straightforward conversion currently being implemented is to send a body of text to a text-to-speech converter and wait for an audio file to be generated. This, unfortunately, means waiting for the full conversion process to complete. The common solution to this problem is to wait for a certain amount of the conversion process to complete and then begin playing the generated audio as it's converted. While faster, it makes the assumption that the conversion process is fast enough to "keep up" with the audio being played and, furthermore, makes the assumption that the software component receiving the audio information has direct access to the audio device (pc soundcard, telephone resource, etc) to play the audio. The invention outlined herein provides a more elegant solution that takes advantage of the HTTP standard by providing URL access to a text-to-speech resource in such a way that both simplifies software integration and application performance. Furthermore, by HTTP-enabling existing TTS software, performance and ease of use is improved without having to re-write the complicated "engines" that convert the text and generate the audio.

Summary: The idea of this invention is to provide a web-server-based implementation of text-to-speech conversion via HTTP-standard URL's. Existing "text-to-wav" or "text-to-media" software that exists today could be used as the basis of such a server.

The web server must contain a CGI application or server module with the three following capacities:

1. The ability to convert a body of text received via http post to the main URL of the application into a series of smaller URLs each containing part of the text to be converted.
2. A text-to-media capability either natively or through invocation of existing software residing on the web server.
3. A mechanism to convert a URL generated by item number 1 utilizing the capability described by item number 2.

In order for an application to access the server described above, it would first POST the text to be converted to the base URL of the server. The process would proceed as follows:

The text "This is a sample body of text. It contains multiple sentences, and a variety of punctuation; all of these are elements of standard text that are interpreted by text-to-speech converters." would be sent via a FORM POST

to `http://ttsserver/main.cgi`. The tts server would then return the following list of URLs "`http://ttsserver/main.cgi?This+is+a+sample+body+of+text%p++It+contains,` `http://ttsserver/main.cgi?+multiple+sentences%c+and+a+variety+of+punctuation%c,` `http://ttsserver/main.cgi?+all+of+these+are+elements+of+standard+text+that+are,` `http://ttsserver/main.cgi?+interpreted+by+text%dto%dspeech+converters.`". The application would then use HTTP GET requests to the returned URLs in sequence. The data returned from the GET would be standard audio information such as WAV data. If desired, the application could GET the next URL in the sequence while playing the data returned by the preceding GET. If the TTS process needs to be interrupted, the application may stop requesting URLs at any point in the list.

Advantages: This invention improves many facets of text-to-speech services. By breaking up the text into multiple URLs from which the converted text media is retrieved, implementation of text-to-speech is greatly simplified. Furthermore, any standard audio-enabled web client can retrieve the converted audio natively. Another advantage is that the http standard allows for each request to be divided among multiple servers to enhance tts-resource availability and load balancing.

Method of Detecting Use: A protocol analyzer can be used to look for large URLs returning audio data. Also, web servers co-resident with existing text-to-speech software could be examined to check

for interaction between the web server and the TTS software.

By Other Companies:

Previous ---

Public Use:

First Written ---

Record Date:

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